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sidering the composite character of the work, its unity is well maintained and the chapters are all of a high order.

Municipal History and Present Organization of the City of Chicago.

By SAMUEL EDWIN SPARLING, Ph.D. [Bulletin of the University of Wisconsin, No. 23.] (Madison, Wisconsin: the University. 1898. Pp. 188.)

OF the seventeen chapters in this book, six, comprising about one-quarter of the space, are given to the history of the city government of Chicago from 1833 to 1872. The rest of the book is devoted to a description of the present organization of the city government as developed under the act of 1872.

The author aims to show in the first part how the germs of municipal government contained in the village charter of 1833 grew into the highly complicated organism of 1898. He traces the evolution of the power of the mayor as the central thought of this development from the time when he was simply the presiding officer of the village board of trustees, elected by the board, entrusted with little or no initiative power, granted little or no control over legislation or administration, to the present, when, having achieved an independent position, elected by popular vote, though still the presiding officer of the council, he has become the acknowledged head of the administration, and even a powerful element in the legislative body itself. A description is given of the process by which the system of independent administrative boards was gradually evolved out of the old village board of trustees, and of the methods by which, when these boards had done their work, they were converted into a system of administrative departments under single heads responsible to the mayor.

The later chapters, comprising two-thirds of the book, are given to an exposition of the present organization of the various city departments. The following titles of several of the chapters indicate the line of development: The Common Council; The Mayor and His Functions; The Administration of Finance; Department of Public Works; Institutions for Protection and Education—Police, Fire, Health, Schools; Town and County Government in Chicago; The Park Administration. A bibliography of some ten pages contains a list of the sources from which the author drew his material, including a chronological arrangement of the laws relating to the government of the city passed by the legislature of Illinois. It is unfortunate that no index accompanies the work, though the table of contents, being quite full, makes up in some part for the omission.

It is evident that within the limits of a monograph of less than 200 pages with wide margins and few foot-notes, only a mere outline of such a complicated and comprehensive subject as that of the city government of Chicago can be given. It is also plain that where the attempt is made to cover the whole ground, little more can be done than to utilize in a

more or less sketchy way the sources of information most easily accessible. Those persons therefore who have worked over this material at all fully will find little that is new in this monograph. The laws of the state, the ordinances of the city, the proceedings of the council since 1872, the local histories of varying value, and the newspapers to a limited extent, have been drawn upon by the author. Little attempt has been made, if one may judge from the traces of the effort in the monograph itself, to work over in detail the enormous mass of material contained in the newspapers and in the ephemeral pamphlet literature of the last fifty years, so that the field of original research is still left almost untouched for future monographic effort.

On the other hand, the work of giving a fairly satisfactory outline history of the municipal government has been well done, and the description of the existing system of administration is, if not altogether adequate, the best account thus far furnished within anything like the same number of pages. The book is on the whole a substantial contribution to the subject which it discusses. It will be of considerable use even to the special student who has worked over the field, and in the present state of the literature on the subject will be well-nigh indispensable to the students of our municipal institutions who wish to know something of Chicago and its development, and yet have not access to the original sources. The book is distinctly superior to the common run of monographs submitted for the doctor's degree. An epigrammatic style interferes with the pleasure of reading the work, and there are evidences that the author has yielded to the temptations common to such a style, and said things often in such an epigrammatic way that the sense is concealed for all but himself. Many misprints disfigure the pages, which is all the more to be regretted as the general typographical appearance of the book is distinctly pleasing.

Histoire de la Seigneurie de Lauzon. Par J. EDMOND ROY, Membre de la Société Royale du Canada, Maire de la ville de Lévis. (Lévis, en vente chez l'auteur, 9 rue Wolfe. 1897, 1898. Two vols., pp. viii, v, lxiii, 495, lxxxvi; 416, lxii, v.)

It is almost startling to find the mayor of a town in America who is engaged in active political life, devoting the spare time of ten years to historical research. M. Roy is mayor of the considerable town of Lévis opposite Quebec. The surrounding tract of country composes the seigneurie of Lauzon. The huge buildings and glittering spires of Lévis look imposing from the terrace at Quebec, and the place itself has had an eventful history. It was from its heights that Wolfe bombarded Quebec in 1759. So long ago as 1636, the seigneurie was originally established, and for concessions made in 1653 masses are still said annually in the parish of St. Nicolas for Mme. de Charmy, wife of a former seigneur. In this and adjoining seigneuries land has been held by the same families in unbroken succession for more than two hundred years. Th. Bentzon,